



TOWN HALL
56 Queen Street
Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z9

t: 905.885.4544
f: 905.885.7698

mayor@porthope.ca
www.porthope.ca

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 12, 2021

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street
P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, ON
K1P 5S9

Dear President Velshi and Members of the Commission:

The Municipality of Port Hope recently received an update on the PHAI Project and the CNL application for a clean-up criteria change to the arsenic value under their license.

Council received in the update, CNL's estimated impacts to our tree canopy due to the removal of trees to facilitate the Project in removing arsenic to the current approved level. This raises significant concern to our community as an estimated 50,000+ trees would be lost and the project timelines extended. Losing this large number of trees would be a significant and negative environmental outcome of the project. Our Municipal Council understands that the removal of so many trees is related to the provincial regulatory standard for arsenic which is 18 ppm. It is similar to the average background value of naturally-occurring arsenic in Port Hope soils, necessitating significant additional excavation and substantial disruption to home owners to meet the regulatory requirement. This standard of 18 ppm is also the basis of the CNSC License for the Project and is the subject of CNL's request to adjust the arsenic value to an alternative value that remains protective of human health and the environment and is supported by science.

Council acknowledges CNSC's regulatory role concerning the CNL request. Council would also express concern to the CNSC on the potential catastrophic impact to our tree canopy when CNSC's considers the CNL application.

We strongly urge the CNSC to consider giving priority to this application and expediting a decision to facilitate the Project. An expedited decision by CNSC would let our residents know what to expect regarding the protection of our tree canopy from the loss of over 50 thousand trees which would be a direct result of the current license clean-up criteria.

We thank you and Commission Members for considering our request and continued support to the PHAI clean-up.

Regards,

Bob Sanderson, Mayor

Cc: Mr. Fred Dermarkar, AECL